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March 30, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

5416 '99 APR 12 P1:21

RE: DOCKET NO. 98N-1038,
Irradiation in the production,
processing and handling of food

To Whom It May Concern:

As a senior citizen and consumer, I am formally requesting the FDA to retain the current labeling law "treated by irradiation" or "treated with irradiation" and the prominent display of the radura symbol on all irradiated foods. I also ask that these be placed prominently and conspicuously on the front of the package, not in tiny type in the ingredient label too tiny for eyes of the elderly to read. Some irradiated foods have different texture and spoilage characteristics than untreated goods. Some fruits and vegetables have nutrient losses that are not obvious or expected by the consumer.

The alternative terms proposed such as "cold pasteurization" and "electronic pasteurization" are devious and misleading and should not be used. The absence of a statement would also be misleading because irradiation destroys vitamins and causes changes in sensory and spoilage qualities. As a person highly sensitive to certain chemical properties and processes, it is important that I depend upon the nutrient value of the foods I eat to maintain my health and well being. How will this be possible if the information is not readily available to consumers at point of purchase?

Please recommend that the current labeling practices be renewed. Because of my health condition, if the FDA chose not to maintain current labeling procedures for irradiated foods I would be forced to discontinue purchase of any processed foods and supermarket produce and I would be limited to purchasing fresh produce and meat products from local growers only.

I also urge you to place the comments received on the internet so that the public can be informed about who is participating in this comment process.

At one with the Earth,



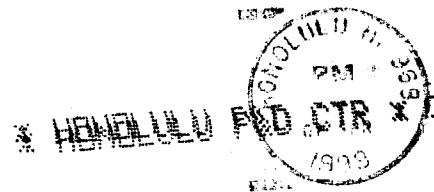
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cc: Hon. Patsy Mink, U.S. CONGRESS

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04/07/99



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